

AUTHORIZING AND REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE LAST SURVIVING VETERAN OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

JULY 13, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 118]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 118) authorizing and requesting the President of the United States to issue a proclamation calling for the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff on the occasion of the death of the last surviving veteran of the War Between the States, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the joint resolution is to authorize and request the President of the United States to issue a proclamation on the occasion of the death of the last surviving veteran of the War Between the States, and calling for the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff for such period of time as the President deems appropriate in commemoration of the death of all veterans of the War Between the States.

STATEMENT

The last living veteran of the War Between the States is now 116 years of age and living in Houston, Tex. He is Walter W. Williams, who served in the Army of the Confederacy for the last 11 months of the Civil War as a forage master in Company C, 5th Regiment of Hood's Brigade, on active duty in Mississippi and Texas.

After the War Between the States, Mr. Williams settled on a farm near Franklin, Tex., and was so engaged as a farmer until his advanced age restricted his activities some years ago. The committee is advised

that Mr. Williams is known nationally as "General" Williams, such honorary rank having been bestowed upon him by the Sons of the Confederacy in various Confederate States.

Mr. Williams suffered a mild stroke recently and his personal physicians advise that his passing is imminent, perhaps a few weeks at the most.

The American Legion, at its national convention in 1956, adopted a resolution requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling for the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff on the occasion of the death of the last surviving veteran of the War Between the States.

The committee deems it most appropriate and fitting that the President be authorized to issue a proclamation calling for the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff for such period of time as the President deems appropriate in commemoration not only of the last surviving veteran but of all veterans of the War Between the States.

Accordingly, the committee recommends favorable consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 118, without amendment.